

WEEKEND READING FOR THE PRESIDENT

5-7 December 1969

Contents

EUROPE

1. Andre Fontaine, "Europe: Unity or Americanization," LeMonde (Weekly Selection), Nov. 26, 1969.

An editorial by a distinguished French commentator on political affairs, whom you met on your European trip. It argues that European unity is the only way to preserve Western Europe's separate identity (political, economic, and cultural) vis-a-vis the United States. Among other things, it argues for British membership in the European communities, on the ground that Britain has been the most successful at resisting assimilation into the American economic sphere (an interesting reversal of the Gaullist premise that Britain was a Trojan Horse for the Anglo-Saxons).

2. Alain C. Enthoven & K. Wayne Smith, "What Forces for NATO? And From Whom?" Foreign Affairs, October 1969.

Enthoven, who was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Analysis under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, is a leading exponent of the view that a strong NATO conventional capability in Europe is feasible within current force and budget levels. This article is a concise statement of his thesis. Enthoven believes that NATO and Warsaw Pact strengths in Central Europe are roughly equal and that a conventional option in NATO strategy is not only feasible but essential. He recommends more equitable burden-sharing among the Allies and a streamlining (but not a unilateral cutback) of U.S. and NATO forces.

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VIETNAM

3. "The Only Innocents," The Economist, November 29, 1969.

An intelligent editorial on the Song My massacre, in a publication that has been generally sympathetic to U.S. objectives in Vietnam. It points out the peculiarly self-centered quality of American hand-wringing on the subject: the naive assumption that Americans are somehow better than everybody else is now replaced by a nonsensical belief that Americans are worse than everybody else, or by a naive conclusion that this war is more horrible than all others.

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4. Resolution Nine of the Lao Dong Party Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN), July 1969, Summary and Analyses by State Department and CIA.

Resolution Nine is one of the major policy documents of the Communist side in Vietnam in 1969. It attempts to prepare Communist cadre in South Vietnam for various possible political and military contingencies, including (among others) a continuation of the struggle by political means after an early end to the fighting. Enclosed are: a summary of the document and an analysis by the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and a further analysis by the CIA.

ASIA

5. Coral Bell, "The Asian Balance of Power: A comparison with European Precedents," Adelphi Paper No. 44, February 1968.

A perceptive discussion, by an Australian writer on political affairs, of the utility of the balance-of-power concept in thinking about the future of Asia.

She analyzes the motivations and perspectives of the various nations involved, and compares them with those of the participants in the balance of power system that kept the peace in Europe in the 19th century. She concludes that a stable balance against China is probably impossible without an American (or perhaps a Soviet) presence in Asia.

AFRICA

6. Stanley Meisler, "Nigeria and Biafra," Atlantic Monthly, October 1969.

A brief and readable summary of the issues in the Nigeria-Biafra war by a responsible American journalist. The author leans somewhat to the Biafran side.

7. Earl W. Foell, "Africa's Vanishing Act at the UN: Where Does the United States Stand on African Questions?" Africa Report, Nov. 1969.

A piece by a Los Angeles Times journalist critical of the big powers' indifference to African issues, and of America's lackadaisical support for black Africa's aspirations.

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8. Immanuel Wallerstein, "From Nixon to Nixon: Is America's Outmoded Policy towards a Changing Africa about to Cross a New Frontier?" Africa Report, Nov. 1969.

A Columbia University professor deplores the rightward turn he discerns in U.S. policy toward Africa since the assassination of President Kennedy. He points to the alarming prospect of the creation of permanent links between American black militants and African liberation movements.